AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of transmission of application data in a plurality of services in a digital transport stream, each of said plurality of services carrying at least one application, the method comprising:

> providing an application data table containing information regarding said at least one application carried by each of a plurality of the services within the transport stream.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application data table is transported in a transport packet having predetermined packet ID value associated with the presence of an application data table within the packet.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said application data table is electronically signed so as to permit a decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each service further comprises a program map table giving access to applications carried by this service, the program map table itself comprising information regarding said at least one application carried by this service.

5. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

> providing a plurality of said application data tables, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein each application data table is transported in one of a table and a section within a transport packet, each application data table being associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the application data table in a digital television system.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the digital transport stream conforms to the MPEG standard.

14. (Previously Presented) A transmission apparatus comprising:

>   means for transmitting a transport stream comprising a plurality of services together with an application data table containing information regarding applications carried by a plurality of the services within the transport stream.

15. (Previously Presented) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit the application data table in a transport packet having a predetermined packet ID value associated with the presence of an application data table within the packet.

16. (Previously Presented) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14, comprising means for electronically signing said application data table so as to permit a decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

17. (Previously Presented) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit for each service a program map table giving access to applications carried by that service, the program map table itself comprising information regarding said at least one application carried by this service.

18. – 22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit a plurality of said application data tables, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

24. (Previously Presented) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit each application data table and a section within a transport packet, each application data table being associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

25. (Previously Presented) A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the digital transport stream conforms to the MPEG standard.

26. (Previously Presented) A digital television system comprising:

      a transmission apparatus, said apparatus comprising means for transmitting a transport stream comprising a plurality of services together with an application data table containing information regarding applications carried by a plurality of the services within the transport stream.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A decoder comprising:

      a memory for storing an application data table comprising information regarding applications carried by a plurality of services within the transport stream, and

      means for controlling at least one of the downloading and maintenance of such applications in dependence on the information contained within the application data table.

29. (Previously Presented) An application data table comprising:

      information regarding at least one application carried by each of a plurality of services within transport stream.

30. (Previously Presented) The decoder as claimed in claim 28, wherein said application data table is electronically signed so as to permit the decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

31. – 35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) A plurality of tables according to claim 29, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

37. (Previously Presented) The plurality of tables as claimed in claim 36, wherein each application data table is associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

38. – 45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) A table as claimed in claim 29, wherein the application information in the application data table includes a service exclusive value indicating that an application is exclusive to at least one service.

47. (Canceled)